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STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF, CR/WH, CRES/ARO, EUR/SIGINT,  
 IAD/CAS-3, IAD/PE, ICS/HTO, LA-3, NICAG/LA, NIO/LA, OALA/ES-2, OALA/MC,  
 OALA/MC/CA, OALA/MC/DC, OALA/MC/R-2, OALA/MCMIL, OALA/ME/LA,  
 OALA/ME/MB, OALA/POLA, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OER, OGI-2, OGI/I, OGI/R-2,  
 OIA/ERRS, TF-E,

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RR RUEAIIB  
 ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
 STU8287  
 RR RUEHC  
 DE RUESAL #1503 0542205  
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 R 232148Z FEB 82  
 FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8089  
 INFO RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1882  
 RUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 267  
 RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5820  
 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1076  
 RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8842  
 RUESJO/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 2318  
 RUESTE/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 8601  
 RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN  
 BT  
 UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 1503

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ES

SUBJECT: CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION HOLDS A CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. AT A WELL-ATTENDED CONGRESS OF THE ACOPAI  
 CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION, PARTICIPANTS HEARD SPEECHES BY A  
 JUNTA MEMBER, A CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE, AND NUMEROUS LABOR  
 LEADERS. THE SPEAKERS AND THE ACOPAI "MANIFIESTO" DECLARED  
THEIR OPPOSITION TO DIALOGUE COMPELLED BY VIOLENCE, SUPPORT  
FOR THE ELECTIONS, AND SUPPORT FOR AGRARIAN, BANKING, AND  
FOREIGN COMMERCE REFORMS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON 2/20/82, LABOFF ATTENDED A SURPRISING WELL-  
 ATTENDED CONGRESS HOSTED BY THE ACOPAI CAMPESINO ORGANIZ-  
 ATION. APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE HEARD SPEECHES BY JRG  
 MEMBER JOSE ANTONIO MORALES EHRLICH, CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE

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State Dept. review completed

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FATHER JESUS DELGADO, AND THE LEADERS OF NEARLY EVERY DEMOCRATIC LABOR AND CAMPESENO ORGANIZATION IN EL SALVADOR. IN ADDITION, REPRESENTATIVES OF EVERY POLITICAL PARTY EXCEPT ACCION DEMOCRATICA ATTENDED THE CONGRESS. CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM THE CONGRESS WAS ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RIVAL UCS CAMPESENO ORGANIZATION.

## 3. MAJOR SPEECHES

SPEAKING AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR RIVERA Y DAMAS, FATHER DELGADO ESPOUSED THE DOCTRINE OF PEACE AS AN ACTIVE POLICY. HE INFORMED THE CAMPESEINOS THAT IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO STATE THAT THEY SUPPORTED PEACE. THEY ALSO HAD AN OBLIGATION TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS, TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE, AND TO WORK FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY AND MORE JUST SOCIETY. DELIVERING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS, JUNTA MEMBER MORALES EHRLICH ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S AGRARIAN REFORM PROCESS IS IRREVERSIBLE. (NOTE: HE STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT DECREE 207 WILL BE EXTENDED BY THE JRG ON 3/4/82.) MORALES EHRLICH CLOSED WITH A PITCH FOR THE MARCH 28 ELECTIONS. HE ARGUED THAT IT WAS CRUCIAL FOR ALL SALVADORANS TO VOTE IN ORDER TO SHOW THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE ARE SERIOUS IN THEIR DESIRE FOR PEACE.

## 4. ACOPAI'S MANIFIESTO.

ACOPAI'S PRESIDENT JORGE CAMACHO CLOSED THE CONGRESS BY READING THE RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE RESOLUTIONS:

- CONDEMNED ALL VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR AND OPPOSED ANY DIALOGUE COMPELLED BY VIOLENCE.
- EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTIONS, STATING: "ACOPAI IS INTERESTED IN THE CURRENT ELECTORAL PROCESS BECAUSE, LIKE THE UNIDAD POPULAR DEMOCRATICA, IT CONSIDERS THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH AS A VIABLE AND POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO INITIATE THE ROAD TOWARDS A REGIME OF LEGALITY IN EL SALVADOR."
- ANNOUNCED THAT ACOPAI WILL SUPPORT NO INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL PARTY; AUTHORIZED ANY MEMBER OF ACOPAI TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS (I.E., RUN AS A CANDIDATE).
- EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR AGRARIAN REFORM, BANKING REFORM, AND FOREIGN COMMERCE REFORM.

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5. COMMENT. THE ACOPAI CONGRESS PROVIDED A RARE SHOW OF  
UNITY AMONG THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIDAD POPULAR DEMOCRA-  
TICA (UPD) LABOR-CAMPESINO ASSOCIATION. CONSIDERED TOGETHER  
WITH THE RECENT UPD DECISION TO INVITE INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS  
FROM INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS TO THE SALVADORAN  
ELECTIONS (REPORTED SEPTEL), THE ACOPAI CONGRESS MAY IMPLY  
INCREASED UPD ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF THE ELECTIONS.  
HINTON

END OF MESSAGE

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